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**From:** DWR Water News Editors  
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## Department of Water Resources

### California Water News

A daily compilation for DWR personnel of significant news articles and comment

August 12, 2015

Visit the [Save Our Water](#) website for water conservation tips.

NOTE: Access to some of the stories linked here requires a subscription to the publications in which they appear.

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### Top Stories

#### Toxic algae blooming in warm water from California to Alaska

Associated Press

One of the largest toxic algae blooms recorded off the West Coast is denser, more widespread and deeper than scientists feared even weeks ago.

#### Plastic 'shade balls': The hypnotizing tool California is using to save water

Robert Gebelhoff, Washington Post

California is experiencing one of its most severe droughts on record, and its local municipalities

have an astounding strategy to save water: turn their reservoirs into massive, floating ball pits.

## States downstream from contaminated river upset that EPA didn't

John M. Glionna and Matt Pearce, Los Angeles Times

As the Environmental Protection Agency continued to monitor 3 million gallons of mine waste released into Colorado's Animas River, residents in two states downstream decried the federal agency Tuesday, saying it failed to alert them to mustard-colored sludge headed their way.

## Drought

### Los Angeles dumps 20K 'shade balls' into reservoir to stop ...

Reuters

Desperate to preserve its water supply amid a four-year drought, Los Angeles is turning a reservoir into a ball pit. It may not seem like the most scientific approach, but officials say the "shade balls" will protect valuable H2O in the City of Angels.

## California's five stages of drought grief

LA Daily News

Too much fire and not enough rain is not a new combination in **California** and ... have finally adapted to cutting back on urban and suburban **water** use at home.

## Receding California lakes reveal pieces of past

Appeal-Democrat

The same thing is true for the Paradise Cove Lodge down **California** 178. ... There is 32,632 acre-feet of **water** in the lake — 5.8 percent of the lake's capacity

## Heat wave arriving as 2 weather systems clash over Southern ...

Joseph Serna, Los Angeles Times

The **water** at the Santa Monica Pier on Sunday was a tropical 74 degrees; it was 71 degrees in ... Niño could bring disaster and drought relief to **California**.

## Why **California's** Drought Policies Are Wrong-headed and Won't Work

Huffington Post

**California water** officials, collectively, appear to be applying these tools in the order listed above. All have pluses and minuses, but the final option of raising.

## Drought mandates will be adjusted, Brown says

Bradley J. Fikes, San Diego Union-Tribune

San Diego County and other parts of the state may get some flexibility in complying with California's rigorous water conservation mandate, Gov. Jerry Brown hinted Tuesday.

## In Photos: **California** Farmers Versus the Delta Smelt

VICE News

**California** is in the midst of its worst drought in 1200 years. As politicians impose statewide **water** restrictions and the agricultural sector comes under intense ...

## EL Niño And Blob Interaction Could Affect Drought In **California**

Amy Quinton, Capital Public Radio News

The combination is blocking storms in **California**. ... "You have really warm **water** that leads to more evaporation of **water** into the atmosphere and potentially.

## MVLA struggles to maintain athletic fields during **water** restrictions

Los Altos Town Crier

Mountain View High gets most of its water from **California Water** Service Co. – more commonly known as Cal Water – and the rest from the city, Flegel said.

## Essential *California*: Reimagining the *California* shower

Los Angeles Times

Southern **California** is getting its first new automotive plant in 20 years. ... Longer showers, less **water**. The creators of a new San Francisco start-up believe

## Millions Of 'Shade Balls' Protect LA's *Water* During Drought

Huffington Post

Los Angeles can't make it rain, but it can shield its precious **water** with "shade balls" -- 96 ... "In the midst of **California's** historic drought, it takes bold ingenuity to.

## San Diego's *Water*-Saving Efforts Get Thumbs Up From Gov. Brown

NBC 7 San Diego

He said San Diegans have been cutting their **water** use in full compliance with ... "The spill is really upstream from where Southern **California** gets its **water** from.

## CA *Water* Cop Slammed for Lax Ag Reporting Rules

Courthouse News Service

**California's** **water** regulator weakened restrictions on agriculture discharges in the Central Coast region and must implement tougher laws ...

## *California* drought dries up Guadalupe River in San Jose

CBS News

And riding out the drought isn't easy for the Santa Clara Valley **Water** District. Just two years ago, the Guadalupe River was home to many animals like ducks.

## *California* Drought Official Tells Techies: Get Your Hands Dirty

Huffington Post

**California's** drought has spurred everyone to pay close attention to their **water** use. Farmers are especially thirsty for **water**-saving ideas, but where are the

## Eliminating Tiered Rates for Water Use Is a Potential Disaster for ...

Greentech Media

However, a recent court decision makes a mockery of market economics when it comes to apportioning **water** equitably during **California's** extreme drought.

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## Yuba County will back water districts on fines

Appeal-Democrat

Yuba County cities or municipal **water** districts facing fines for not meeting ... "I believe in conserving **water**, but I don't think the state of **California** needs to come.

## El Nino plus 'the blob' may help Western drought

USA TODAY

Both are phenomena associated with warm **water** in the Pacific that can ... another off the coast of Southern **California** and Baja **California**, and a third in the ...

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## 3 underwater ghost towns uncovered by drought

KSL.com

At one point, the town's tallest structure was under about 60 feet of **water**. ... when the **water** levels of Lake Isabella in **California** retreated, was founded by gold.

## Iconic Randy's Donuts' New Sign to Spread Water Conservation ...

NBC Southern California

The iconic planetary pastry sign at Randy's Donuts debuted its new look Tuesday morning in an effort to raise awareness to conserve **water** during **California's**.

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## Drought makes way for water efficiency project

The Bakersfield Californian

With this new intertie, Munn said, the **water** can be moved down the **California** Aqueduct, through the Cross Valley Canal and into the Calloway Canal.

## Oceanside reduces water use by 31 percent

Seaside Courier

Oceanside cut its **water** use by 31 percent from May 2013 to May 2015 and 25 ... Jerry Brown in response to **California's** drought, every **water** agency in the state.

## A quarter of a lot is enough for state's lawns

Daily Democrat

But **California** has properly announced regulations limiting lawns to 25 percent of ... where we're in our fourth year of severe drought, with an unsure **water** future.

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## Drought dries up Orange County's only natural lake

KABC-TV

Join the Circle of Eyewitnesses and tell us what you're doing to save **water**. Share your pictures or video on Twitter, Instagram or Facebook with #ABC7Drought.

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## East County E-views: Have you been hit by fines from your city for ...

Contra Costa Times

IF THE **water** restrictions were based on individual households and not on a ... Southern **California** are being fined; that s where all our **water** is being pumped to.

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## LOIS HENRY: Can homeowners reuse their household graywater yes and no.

The Bakersfield Californian

But so is **water** from dishwashing machines and the kitchen sink. ... Also read through the **California** State Plumbing Code here for more graywater basics.

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## **Supply**

### **THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE: All the gold in California?**

Bucks Local News-1 hour ago

An inadequate *water* supply is a major issue for *California* winegrowers. Granted, grapes can thrive in dry climates, and wine quality often improves with fruit.

### **Baldassare: Californians and Climate Change**

Mark Baldassare, Fox & Hounds

It's been nine years since the movie "An Inconvenient Truth" had its debut and AB 32, the "California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006" was passed by the Democratic-controlled legislature and signed by Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

## **Water Quality**

### **Vacaville residents concerned about chromium levels in water**

KCRA Sacramento

"Our *water* system violated a drinking *water* standard," the notice said, but went on ... across *California* have exceeded the state's *water* standard for chromium-6.

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## **Watersheds**

### **Monterey County water agency seeks fish-farms balance in reservoir**

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Monterey County Herald

National Marine Fisheries officials are warning the *water* agency against ... and the environment throughout *California*,” acting *California* Coastal Office assistant.

## **Forward progress on Bellota Weir?**

Alex Breittler, eSan Joaquin Blog

It looks like the Stockton East Water District is preparing to apply for grant funding to improve fish passage at the Bellota Weir, on the Calaveras River east of Stockton.

## **TID questions fish passage around Don Pedro**

John Holland, Modesto Bee

Irrigation district board members raised questions Tuesday about a costly proposal to help Tuolumne River fish get around Don Pedro Reservoir.

## **Tahoe Keys answer to invasive weeds — herbicide**

Kathryn Reed, Lake Tahoe News

It's time to do something different.

## **Agencies, People and Programs**

### **Princeton part of \$12 million project to set up urban *water sustainability research network***

Princeton University

University programs related to *water* management include the study of urban ... the University of *California*-Berkeley; the University of *California*-Riverside.

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## **"There Is NO Drought in *California*"**

Huffington Post

In fact the 2005 *California* Energy Commission's *Water*-Energy Relationship report found *water* gobbles up nineteen percent of the state's energy.



## **Brown authorizes district power plant construction**

Appeal-Democrat

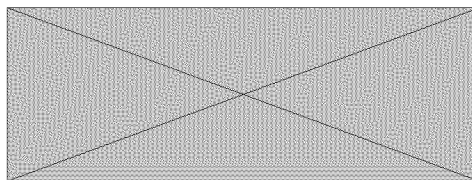
Dodd carried the bill on behalf of the Northern *California Water* Association ... RD 108 is along the western edge of the Sacramento River, delivering water to.

## **Landscaper transforms sod into garden**

Kathryn Reed, Lake Tahoe News

A spiral herb garden, raised mounds with endless plants and a dry riverbed. Those were not part of my plans when I decided to remove my turf. Those were Brian Hirdman's ideas when he was hired to take over my landscaping project.

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